

The plants along the two sides bordering this area showed heavy infestation of aphids. This observation shows that the occurrence of the aphid *A. craccivora* depends on or is determined by the proximity of the nests of its tending ant species which in this area is *A. longipes*.

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25. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ATALANTIA MISSIONIS*
OLIV. IN THE DISTRICT OF BURDWAN IN
WEST BENGAL

(With a plate)

In course of a collection trip to the district of Burdwan, a tree was noticed on the roadside at Jaugram, which was later identified as *Atalantia missionis* Oliv., (family Rutaceae).

The occurrence of *Atalantia missionis* Oliv., in this remote part of rural Bengal is very interesting. The available literature and herbarium sheets, reveal that the plant is distributed in the western Peninsula, Red Hills, Madras, Deccan Hills and eastern slopes of Nilgiris and Anamalais. Prain, Duthie, Haine, Das & Kanjilal, as well as many other botanists of India who especially worked on the floristic survey of Eastern, Northern and Central India did not collect or record this species, so its occurrence in Jaugram is rather intriguing from the distributional point of view.

Atalantia missionis Oliv.—In Journ. Linn. Soc. Suppl. 25; F.B.I. 1:513 (1872); Cooke, Fl. Bomb. Presidency 1:188 (1903); Gamble Fl. of Madras Presi. 1:114 (Reprinted edition, 1957).

A small very thorny citrus like tree with yellowish-white hard wood. Leaves alternate, 1-foliolate, leaflet coriaceous, entire or crenulate, stipulelike scales often present. Flowers in axillary, rarely terminal, fascicles, racemes or panicles, rarely solitary, calyx 3-5 lobed or partite sometimes irregularly split. Petals 3-5 free or adnate to the stamens and united with them in a tube, imbricate. Disk—annular or capsular.

Deposited in Herb. (CAL) No. 1. S. K. Bhattacharyya.

Herbarium sheets examined :

Peninsular India, *Wight*, 375.

Mamandar, Chittoor district, 11-3-1918, *C.E.C. Fischer*, 4279.

Nilgiri, 1891, Dr. Shahl, s.n. (4) Quilon, *A. Meebold*, 12678.

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,

INDIAN BOTANIC GARDEN,

SHIBPORE,

HOWRAH.

March 19, 1971.

R. B. GHOSH

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26. *EUPHORBIA SERPENS* H.B.K. (EUPHORBIACEAE):
A HITHERTO UNRECOGNISED SPECIES IN INDIA¹

(With a text-figure)

Euphorbia microphylla Heyne, as understood in FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA, is a mixture of two species: *E. microphylla* Heyne and *E. serpens* H.B.K. This was observed, while ascertaining the correct identity of a weed in Bengal, commonly known as '*E. bombaiensis* Santapau (= *E. microphylla* Heyne)'; in fact, these plants represented the true *E. serpens* H.B.K., a tropical American weed.

Santapau (Bull. bot. Soc. Beng. 8:17, 1955) proposed *E. bombaiensis*, as an avowed substitute for *E. microphylla* Heyne (in Roth, Nov. Pl. Sp. 229, 1821, non Lamk. 1786); subsequently Rajagopal & Panigrahi (Taxon 17:547, 1968) treated *E. bombaiensis* Santapau conspecific with *E. orbiculata* H.B.K. (Nov. Gen. Sp. 2:52, 1817); however, the above species does not seem to occur in Bengal.

Euphorbia serpens H.B.K., though long since naturalized in some parts of India, has not been recognised so far in any Indian Flora, apparently being not easily distinguishable from '*E. microphylla* Heyne'. Thus J. D. Hooker in Fl. Brit. India 5:253, 1887, while treating *E. microphylla* Heyne states: 'It is certainly very near indeed to the *E. serpens*.....'; also he combines the diagnostic characters of both the species: 'stipules minute, triangular, 2-partite (*E. microphylla*) or laciniately toothed (*E. serpens*).' (parenthesis and italics mine). A. T. Gage, on the other hand identified the two entities as *E. serpens* H.B.K., in Herb. CAL.

¹ Communicated by Prof. P. V. Bole.